

Southeast News

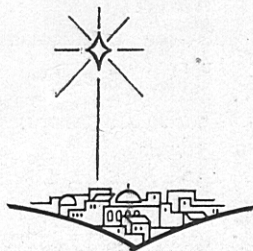
PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 19

DECEMBER 1970

NUMBER 2



EPIPHANY

Planning Ahead For 1971

JANUARY 6 — Epiphany, traditional date of the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. A fitting time to stress "mission" of personal life, as well as of the Church. Remember that the season of Epiphany extends to lent (February 24.)

JANUARY 15 — Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Watch for mailing from the Race Task Force dealing with priorities and racism, poverty, and war, which will include suggestions for this observance. Copies of leaflets prepared for this purpose in 1970 are available free until supply is exhausted. Order from Central Distribution Service, P. O. Box 7286, St. Louis, Missouri 63177.

JANUARY 18-25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. See article on observance suggestions by U.C.C. President Robert V. Moss.

Also, January is not too early to begin preparation for summer programs, vacation church school, participation in camps and conferences, family events, summer service opportunities, adult education, and leadership development.

FEBRUARY 21-28 — Special emphasis on Brotherhood Week (although this week should be observed fifty-two weeks a year!)

FEBRUARY 24 — Ash Wednesday. Beginning of Lent.

Christmas Then And Now

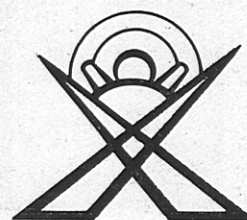
*The world was sad and weary;
And full of want and fear and misery,
The evening when the sun went down
Before the first Christmas became a reality.*

*But during the darkness of the nighttime
The cry of a baby was heard, breaking the silence,
And his cry announced the birth of the Christ Child.
And daylight revealed His presence,
And His presence made it Christmas.*

*In this day of sadness and world confusion
May our night before Christmas be filled with a miracle
Of Christ born anew in our hearts.
And may Christmas morning reveal the joy
Of the Christ Child moving into our hearts
To make our lives His new abiding place.*

If so, we shall surely have a joyous Christmas.

—Rev. Floyd M. Price
Garden City, Alabama



christmas

THE PRAYER IN THE ABOVE POEM EXPRESSES OUR CONCERN
FOR FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

*"May our night before Christmas be filled with a miracle
Of Christ born anew in our hearts,
And may Christmas morning reveal the joy
Of the Christ Child moving into our hearts
To make our lives His new abiding place."*

**BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS HOLY DAY
AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR.**

W. J. ANDES
GUY L. COLBERT

MRS. CARL HENRY
MRS. TRUMAN MOORE

EMILIE F. PITCOCK

MARCH 1 — Deadline for ordering United Church Curriculum for the summer term. Theme: "Living in God's World."

MARCH 13 and 14 — SEC Youth Annual Meeting, Camp Sumatanga, Attalla, Ala.

MARCH 21 — One Great Hour of

Sharing—Share Our Substance Offering. Check with your minister for materials included in Stewardship Council Winter Packet.

APRIL 4 — Palm Sunday.

APRIL 11 — Easter.

MAY 30 — Pentecost.



CMP Regional Meeting Is Held

TOP: Rev. Otis Young, Division of Church Extension.

BOTTOM: Left to Right—Dr. Robert V. Moss, Mrs. Dorothea Lindsay, Mrs. F. C. Lester, and Rev. Warren Blankenhorn.

In an effort to take more seriously regional concerns for mission within the United Church of Christ, a series of six regional meetings is being held throughout the United States. The fourth in the series was convened October 13 for two days at Central Church, Atlanta, and included representatives from the four Conferences in the southern region: Florida, South Central, Southeast, and Southern. The Southeast Conference was represented by W. J. Andes, Warren Blankenhorn, Bill Green, and Emilie Pitcock.

Prior to the regional meeting, each Conference Executive had received a questionnaire and had been asked to prepare a report of that Conference's established priorities for mission. The regional meeting, then, was to make recommendations for denomination-wide strategies to be acted on by the next General Synod at Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1971.

Some of the national staff people who had attended the previous regional meetings stated their conviction that the Southern Regional was the most open and frank of any thus far. It is hoped that through such a confrontation, regional differences can be dealt with more realistically in

Half-Way House In Michigan

The members of the Social Action Committee of Boulevard Congregational Church, 12929 Joy Road, Detroit, are cooperating with the Wayne County Child Development Center (a residential center for mildly retarded youth) in a unique Half-Way House Project. The purpose of the House is to offer boys, 17 years and older, who are about to be released from the Center, a constructive, emotionally stable environment, while they are learning to become self-reliant citizens. The project was approved by a unanimous vote of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

The Social Action Committee formed a non-profit housing corporation and purchased a former rooming house at 2362 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, on a land contract. The Housing Corporation will maintain and pay the operating expenses of the house. The committee and many members of the church have worked diligently preparing the House for occupancy. More than a thousand work hours have been spent in cleaning, repairing and decorating.

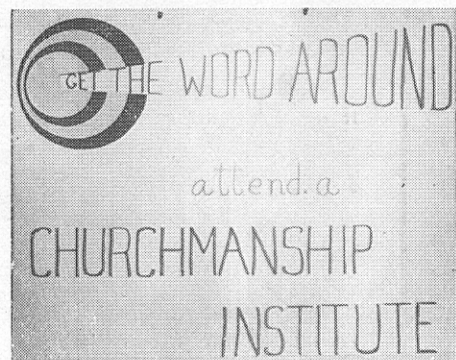
The Wayne County Board of Commissioners has allocated \$15,000 a year for a married couple to act as resident advisors. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kavanaugh, along with their infant son, Jason, have been hired and are already living in the House in preparation for the first young men.

The boys coming to the House have completed the vocational program at the Center and have demonstrated the ability to be gainfully employed. They will pay room and board and help in the maintenance of the House, keeping it clean and

matters of church extension, ministry among black people, Christian education, and other vital matters.

Part of the strategy lies within the region itself. Real concern of one Conference for another was surfaced, including the staff from more adequately staffed Conferences being shared with Conferences having fewer staff members. An example of sharing of staff is even now taking place, with the "lending" from time to time of Rev. Melvin Dollar of the Florida Conference to our Southeast Conference to help with church extension matters.

We look forward to even more meaningful relationships with our sister Conferences.



January Churchmanship Institutes

The schedule for Churchmanship Institutes in January follows:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, Bonanza Community Church, Jonesboro, Ga. (in metropolitan Atlanta).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, Liberty Church, Bowman, Georgia.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, Lowell Church, Roanoke, Alabama.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, Todd Church, Shawmut, Alabama.

Sessions are from 3 - 5 P. M.

A large delegation from each congregation in the general area should attend. Practical help will be offered in: Evangelism, Youth Ministry, Community Outreach, Program Planning for Adults, and Stewardship Education. At least one person from each church should attend each of the five groups mentioned above. A larger number would be even better!

in repair.

Ninety percent of the students are potentially employable. The first couple of months after they graduate usually determine whether they will be successful. The Half-Way House will give support and counselling during that critical adjustment period.

This Church hopes to demonstrate that these young adults can find a useful place in society.

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No. 2

NEWS OF CHURCHES OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Bonanza Has Anniversary

The Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Georgia, celebrated its Fourth Anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 1. Rev. Serge Hummon, from the Board of Homeland Ministries, presented the morning's message on "Doing Your Own Thing." Larry Woolbright reminisced about the very first service, mentioning some of the highlights and problems. It was pointed out and agreed to by all, that under the beginning leadership and spiritual guidance of Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, pastor of the Bonanza United Church of Christ, and his family, the Bonanza Community began to take shape as a truly fine place to live.

Following church, a delicious covered dish dinner was enjoyed by members and guests. A lovely three-tiered anniversary cake was made and decorated by Dot Purl. The cake was as delicious as it was beautiful.

The church is looking forward to even better service to God and community in the future.

—Lorelei Bonner

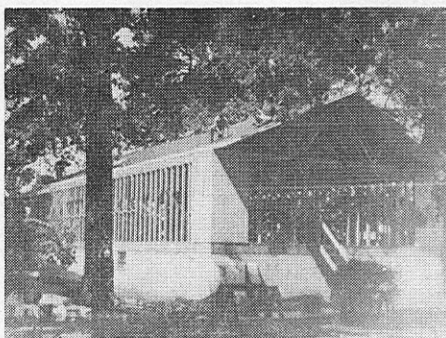
BUSY EAST ALA.- W. GA. CHURCHMEN

A recent meeting of the East Alabama-West Georgia Churchmen's Fellowship was held in the fellowship hall of the newly rebuilt Lanett Church. This was the first association-wide dinner meeting held in the building since fire ravaged it in May of last year.

The Rev. Walter and Mrs. Hall showed movies of the construction progress of the building. Willie McGill of the Lanett Church presented Pete McGuire of the Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Georgia, a sterling silver tray inscribed with words of appreciation of his time and talents in preparing and serving two barbecues that raised almost \$7,000.00 for the Lanett building fund.

Lawrence Moncus, President of the Lanett Men's Fellowship, was presented a check for the Lanett Church in the amount of \$1,000.00 by Bentley Thompson, President of the Oak Grove Men's Fellowship. This gift was promised at the August 1969 meeting of the Association Men's Fellowship with Mr. Thompson explaining how the men at Oak Grove would raise ten calves and sell for about \$100.00 each. Only seven calves were raised but by cash gifts and other projects the men met the scheduled one-year target date.

Dr. A. R. Van Cleave introduced the



71-YEAR-OLD HAS NEW LOOK

The Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga., is seventy-one years old, being founded in 1899. Typical of most rural meetinghouses of that day, it was built as a one-room structure. Shortly after World War II four rooms were added on the sides and rear of the building. Through the years other meaningful changes have enhanced the worshipful appearance of the sanctuary. A few years ago a narthex and two rooms provided space for a pastor's study and church parlor. Thus the architectural beauty was increased for this distinctive white frame building standing in a grove of stately oak trees.

Today we are constructing a much-needed two-story educational building on the north side of the present structure. Of similar design, this 30 x 60 foot building will have classrooms on the main floor while the basement is to be used as a fellowship hall and community center.

Most of the work has been done by the men of the church and community; on two special work days the pastor and men of the Lanett Church came to help raise the trusses, deck the roof, and then cover it. Not only was their physical help and moral support appreciated, but we also enjoyed the fine fellowship. At Oak Grove Church we are fully convinced that when church people help one another the Kingdom of God is strengthened.

—Warren Blankenhorn, Pastor

new President of Southern Union College, L. Ray Jones, who spoke briefly of the college's activities. Association Fellowship President, Harold "Bo" Spear presented the attendance trophy to the Lanett Church for the fall quarter. "Bo" explained that any church winning it seven times in a row could claim permanent possession.

Evergreen, Beachton, Ga.

Rev. Ellis Fann, Pastor, and Mrs. Narvella Hadley, Secretary, report that "The year of 1970 has been very good for us. We are very thankful for our many blessings."

On the fourth Sunday in August Homecoming Sunday was observed. By that time, new pews had been installed, and paneling in the church completed. Also, Deacon C. A. Spearman was honored with a plaque from church members for his services in the church and community.

Members have looked forward to a Harvest Festival observance from November 23-26, including a Thanksgiving Day service and dinner.

Rock Springs Rejuvenated

Great changes have been taking place at the Rock Springs Church these days. After painting the church inside and out, new pews were installed and a lovely new solid oak pulpit and furniture to match were hand-made by Mr. Elton Head and presented to the Church by Mr. Head and his wife.

Nor were the Sunday School rooms neglected. The Rev. Paul Pike himself painted the Sunday School rooms. This all proves what a determined group of dedicated people can do, even though small in number. They managed all of this without going into debt and even have a balance left in the treasury. More power to Rock Springs Church!

First U. C. C. Church, Nashville, Tennessee

Members of the Friendship Group enjoyed a spaghetti supper at the home of Jim and Nellie Campbell with Emory and Marie Cockerham co-hosting. The evening was one of joy and laughter from the time Robin Hood walked in until the Campbells' dog with her howling broke up singing practice.

On Sunday, November 1, several members of the group entertained a ward at the County Hospital and served refreshments.

Through their monthly *News and Notes*, the church introduces new members to others of the congregation, telling a bit about them: where they came from, their employment, their family, their current participation in the life of the church, and other interesting facts.

YOUTH MINISTRY IS MINISTERING

From several churches in the Southeast Conference come reports of youth reaching out to meet needs:

Youth of *Church of the Savior, Knoxville, Tenn.*, work regularly at Eastern State Hospital (for mental patients), teaching arts and recreation. Each Sunday the young people serve coffee and doughnuts at their church, using funds collected to refurbish an Eastern State cubicle.

East Tallassee, Ala., young people started off Youth Week on Sunday, October 25, by conducting both morning and evening services. The morning sermon was delivered by three young people voicing some of their concerns: Youth and Their Religion; Youth's Concern with Pollution; and Youth's Concern for the Hungry. Emphasis was on action rather than on just words. At the evening service, the film, *Between the Dark and the Daylight*, was shown. An offering was received to be given to Church World Service, specifying that it be used for food for the hungry.

Other activities included a visit to the Rural Service Center, where the young people studied poverty in the area and volunteered to sew to provide clothes for some of the needy people. They also visited Mt. Meigs Training School for Boys which houses young men between the ages of 12 and 15 who have gotten into trouble with the law. The youth wanted to see first-hand some of the needs of the school and ways they could help out.

Some of the girls have helped to give therapy to a spastic child in the community.

Climaxing Youth Week was a Halloween Party at which Young people paid 1c for a cup of "witch's brew", 2c to enter "Frankenstein's Laboratory, 1c to have palms read, etc. The \$15 raised at this event was added to the Church World Service offering.

On Sunday, November 1, at the Churchmanship Institute for Nashville U.C.C. churches, young people of *Howard Church* (where the event was held) presented an original chancel drama based on the SEC YOUTH theme for 1970-71: "CRY OUT—Communication, Responsibility for/of Youth."

Words of the drama and the chorus which followed were written by the young people. Music was composed and played on the church organ by R. Lamont Arrington, church organist and student at

Fisk University. The director was Miss Lynn Thornton, a senior at Fisk.

This is the same group which led the very impressive worship service at the Annual Meeting of SEC YOUTH held at Central Church, Atlanta, last spring.

First Church, Andalusia, Ala., youth visit two nursing homes in the area, one predominantly black and the other predominantly white. They read to older people, help them write letters, and perform services, in addition to bringing "the bloom of youth" into the lives of these older people.

Brookmeade Church, Nashville, Tenn. Several young people, with their advisors, planned and conducted Youth Sunday Service, October 25. It was a very commanding presentation of slides on two projectors and a tape of a Red Cross-developed theme, and provided the basis for discussion on caring for other people. Brookmeade youth also regularly visit Tennessee Vocational Girl's School. Fourteen young people collected \$40.60 for the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF).

At *Bethany Church, Thomasville, Ga.*, young people are helping to provide leadership for an after-school recreational program for children whose parents work and who have no other provision made for their care.

The youth of *Barton's Chapel, Robbins, Tenn.*, are giving leadership to a Health Club which seeks to improve the health of residents in this depleted mining area. Some are also working in special education projects.

At the *Pleasant Hill, Tenn., Community Church*, a "Drop-In" Center is getting under way where young people of the surrounding area may experience recreation opportunities not otherwise available.

The community-wide Invaders' Club, sponsored by *First Church, Sweetwater, Tenn.*, and composed of 32 members, prepared 23 Thanksgiving baskets for needy people in the community. Local merchants helped by donating some of the contents.

The Kidney Foundation is the recipient of \$150 raised by a "garage sale" sponsored by the Youth Fellowship of *First U.C.C. Church, Nashville, Tenn.*, and the young people expressed thanks to all who donated materials for the sale. Currently the group is working on a Christmas Play to be presented on Sunday, December 13,

A World To Know

In a world demanding more and more knowledge of differing cultural patterns, youth needs an opportunity to get learning-on-the-spot.

One such opportunity is provided by "exchange" — the opportunity to live with a family in another part of the world for a year in order to learn what people are like in that corner of the world and to become fluent enough in the language to provide for a real exchange of ideas.

The I. C. Y. E. (International Christian Youth Exchange) represents such an opportunity. Through the I. C. Y. E. young people 16-18 years of age from the United States may live abroad, or American families may serve as hosts for one year to a student from some other part of the world.

It is anticipated that in 1971-72, 160 American students representing eleven denominations will live for one year in some other country, while approximately 325 students from other countries will live with American families.

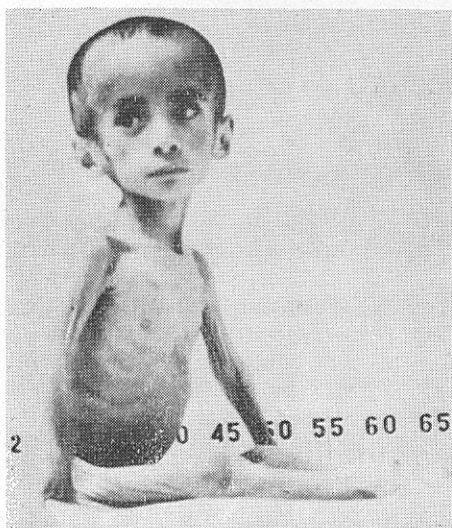
Here is a way for our churches to learn first hand what international involvement is all about. For young people and families who are interested in new and different ways of living and thinking, who enjoy learning about new places and people, who are disturbed about wars, racism and other issues dividing mankind, who want to discover firsthand what is happening in the world, who are willing to prepare by reading and being exposed to a new language — I. C. Y. E. COULD BE FOR YOU!

Fees are nominal. For a congregation to be represented by one of its own youth overseas, the cost is \$1050. To receive an overseas exchange student into the life of a congregation through provision of a host family, the cost is \$700. Full breakdown on the total fees is given to all participants.

If you are interested, lose no time in contacting Dr. Edward L. Schlingman, Pottstown, R. R. 2, Pennsylvania 19464.

Deadline for application of American students is Dec. 15, 1970, and for host families, Feb. 1, 1971.

during the morning worship. Newly elected officers are: President, Carmen Basler; Vice-President, Jimmy Campbell; Secretary-Treasurer, Pam Lee; Program Committee, Patti Feinstein and Richard Krech.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE FOOD MAKES!

"... If you cannot get enough protein to a six-month-old baby, you could educate the daylights out of him afterward but it would be too late because he has lost the essential ability to grow to his full humanity..." (Barbara Ward, *War on Hunger Magazine*, April 1970).

The above photos, taken six months apart, show what a regular diet of high protein food can do. The photographs are from the U. S. Agency for International Development in Colombia, South America.

The United Church Board for World Ministries cooperates with a wide variety of programs throughout the world which seek to change the future for children like this little girl. You help to provide nourishing food directly in emergency situations and indirectly through agricultural ministries whenever you give to Our Christian World Mission, and especially when you support the One Great Hour of Sharing — Share Our Substance appeal.

CRJ Urges Prison Reform

The Commission for Racial Justice called upon the church to work for local, state and federal prison reform, and against "no-knock, quick-entry and preventive detention" police methods. At its quarterly meeting in New York, the Commission adopted a resolution declaring that "the American judicial system is being used by those in power to systematically dehumanize and brutalize black men and women." Charles E. Cobb, the Commission's executive head, advocated that UCC set up a task force to see needed police, judicial process and prison reform.

The Commission action cited "the killings and brutalities committed against black people in . . . prisons," as a "cancer which is killing an entire people." It emphasized the evils of "an interlocking system of illegal arrest, excessive bail or denial of bail . . . long detention, jury trials not by a jury of peers, being forced to accept counsel not of (the prisoners') choice, less than impartial judges, excessive sentences and unrepresentative parole boards."

Winter Chautauqua, February 1971

Come down to Avon Park, Florida, for a week or two—or a month. Enjoy the hospitality of a Christian Conference Center, its comfortable lodging and excellent food. Each morning after worship share in the thinking of an outstanding church leader as he deals with issues of the day. Visit nearby points of interest, or just lull through the afternoon at the lodge and by the lake. In the evening pull up your chair for a fireside talk, a musical program, perhaps a film.

THE 1971 PROGRAM

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 6: "How Big is Your World?" Leader, Rev. Alford Carleton, former head of U.C.C. Board for World Ministries.

FEBRUARY 7-13: "The Sermon on the Mount." Leader, Rev. Lilburn B. Moseley, well-known pastor in Madison, Wisc., Pittsburgh, Pa., and Daytona Beach, Fla.

FEBRUARY 14-20: (Ministers' Week)

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

The 1970 Christmas Fund will make the "Music of Christmas" for 900 Veterans of the Cross who faithfully served our churches and now live in retirement.

Retired ministers and widows of retired ministers who have given their active years to the church have many needs which, for nearly 70 years, the Christmas Fund has helped to meet.

Christmas checks, sent to ministers and widows in need, do two important things: First, they help those on limited budgets. Second, the checks convey good will, gratitude, and that priceless ingredient—"You are remembered."

After the Christmas checks are sent, the balance becomes the year-around Emergency Fund to help active and retired ministers and their families who cannot "go it alone", because of accident or illness.

Checks should be made payable to the Christmas Fund, sent preferably through the Southeast Conference office.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

President Robert V. Moss urges early planning for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. "The day is past," he said, "when the local church considers its ecumenical duty done in eight days of prayer and fellowship with sister churches. The week should also be the focal point of study and planning for joint efforts in the year ahead."

The event is sponsored by the NCC and WCC Departments of Faith and Order with the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute. Leaflets containing suggested orders of service and other guidelines may be ordered from Week of Prayer, Graymoor, Garrison, N. Y. 10524, \$4 per hundred. Also available are posters, sermon notes, Bible devotions and intercessions.

—"A Vital Ministry in Exciting Times." Leader Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Minister Southern Conference U.C.C.

FEBRUARY 21-28: "The Church in Crisis and Change." Leader, Rev. Joseph H. Evans, Secretary U.C.C.

For further information and reservation forms write to:

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
William J. Andes

Special Effort Is Urged For OCWM

As mentioned in a letter sent from the Southeast Conference office in November, this year the United Church of Christ, on the national level and in many Conferences, finds itself in a critical financial situation. For the first time in the denomination's history, the national instrumentalities face a 5% cut in previously budgeted allocations. Conference are also cutting down wherever possible.

WHY THE CRISIS? In recent years, despite a slight increase in receipts, income for Our Christian World Mission has not

kept pace with inflation, resulting in reductions in the work that conferences and national instrumentalities are able to do.

If at all possible, you are asked to give an additional \$5 or \$10, or whatever you can for O.C.W.M. These additional dollars are needed in 1970 to prevent even further cutbacks at a time when there are so many real needs to be met by the Christian mission. Checks should be sent to the Southeast Conference office marked "Special OCWM" before December 31, 1970.

Three adult study resources, published by Friendship Press, speak eloquently to the Fall 1970 Interdenominational mission study theme, "Getting the Word Around." One of these resources is *Man, Media and the Message* by Merrill R. Abbey, professor of preaching at Garrett Theological Seminary.

In this paperback (available from Westminster Book Stores for \$1.75), the author probes the fundamental issues of communicating the Gospel in today's world. In the very first chapter the author states his conviction that the media exist for men and not men for the media. Communication, he contends, must "focus on man." Furthermore, "all that belittles man is in itself a communication in conflict with the image at the heart of the Christian understanding."

Mr. Abbey, who has a long background of experience in the mass media, argues that "focus on man is the objective, but apt handling of media is the means. The Christian communicator cannot exploit the media he uses, but must be drawn into concern for and responsible involvement with them."

Functioning out of a strong theological perspective, Mr. Abbey also asserts that the Christian church has a mandate to communicate the Good News about Jesus Christ by becoming involved in the complex communication technology available.

Some historical insight is given into both past and present efforts of the church to communicate. In communication media the church faces a stiff test of its faithfulness in stewardship. Communication, the author states, "is so integral to the faith itself that a Christianity not communicated would cease to be Christian."

Miss Beverly McAdams Married

Friends of the Rev. and Mrs. James McAdams, who served several Southeast Conference churches, will be interested to learn of the marriage of Miss Beverly Joyce McAdams to Mr. Kenneth Charles Keppel, on Friday, November 27, at Bethesda Chapel, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Kenneth Keppel, of Alexandria, Va., is stationed at the Naval Medical Center.